



**Dr. Dana Edward
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For eight months of the year, I work at NASA-Ames, preparing a master database on nearby stars, which other astronomers can use. The remaining four months, I teach at a small private college in Pennsylvania.

Areas of expertise:

- Planet formation
- Nearby stars

How I first became interested in this profession:

When I was about five, around the time the space program began, my father taught me the constellations and I was very inspired. I went crazy about it!

What helped prepare me for this job:

In the 7th grade, I found a book called Habitable Planets for Man by Stephen Dole. It explained which nearby stars might have habitable planets. It helped me make the connection between science fiction and real science and inspired me to study astronomy in graduate school.

My role models or inspirations:

I've been inspired by astronauts like John Glenn, as well as science fiction authors like Carl Sagan.

My education and training:

- B.S. in Physics, MIT
- Ph.D. in Astrophysics, University of Hawaii

My career path:

- Post-doctoral researcher at Kitt Peak National Observatory for four years
- Post-doctoral researcher at NASA Ames Research Center for two years
- Professor of physics and astronomy at Franklin and Marshall College for eight years

What I like about my job:

I love working on something I've always wanted to study and getting paid for it.

What I don't like about my job:

I don't have nearly enough time to do everything I want.

My advice to anyone interested in this occupation:

There isn't anything you don't need to know. Soak up everything! Take lots of English courses. Remember: persistence is more important than intelligence, so don't give up!